

# THE RIO NEWS.

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NUMBER 18

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## THE PEDREGULHO RESERVOIRS.

The special commission composed of the engineers Messrs. W. Milnor Roberts, J. J. Revi, A. Victor de Borja Castro, and André Rebouças, appointed by the minister of agriculture to examine the Pedregulho reservoirs, presented its report on the 9th instant. Not having been able to agree as to the causes of the late accident to the lower reservoir the members of the commission presented their individual hypotheses of that matter separately, but agreed as to the measures which should be taken to remedy it. They agreed that the two reservoirs should be rendered perfectly impermeable and that the ground upon which they stand should be thoroughly drained, both superficially and deeply, in order to prevent all infiltrations. This being done according to the most approved scientific methods and some works being executed to strengthen the walls, the commission is of opinion that the reservoirs will then fulfil the end for which they were constructed. They all unite in the opinion that the water should not be let into them until they are finally and satisfactorily finished. After receiving this report the minister of agriculture called a consultation of engineers, including the members of the commission, for the purpose of learning their opinions on the causes of the accident, the means of repairing it and of avoiding others, and drainage. Besides the members of the commission above named, there were present Messrs. Bento José de Sobral, Jerônimo R. de Moraes Jardim, Honório Bicalho, Luiz Francisco Monteiro de Barros, Domingos José Rodrigues and Raymundo Teixeira Belfort Roxo.

Dr. Sobral said that he did not consider the accident to be of a grave nature. The fact that the works were incomplete and that the completed parts were still new and unequally matured at the time of the inauguration, the admission of water may, perhaps, have contributed to the result. The ground is of very slight compressibility and permeability. The first cracks in the bottom were probably produced by shrinkage as is very often the case in such works, the infiltration of water at the time of the test causing them to ramify. The necessary repairs should be made and the work continued. When the water is admitted it should be done gradually, say a meter at a time with an interval between each addition.

Dr. Bicalho Castro attributed the accident to a deficient width of base in the walls, which brings the resultant of the downward thrust of the walls and the horizontal thrust of the water too near the outer angle of the base. As a consequence the ground at the place of the crack at the northwest corner suffered a greater compression than was compatible with it. To prevent similar accidents in future the walls in the weaker parts should be given a greater base by means of buttresses with a wide base or support of screw piles. It would have been better to have given the walls a greater slope on the inner side, to have made the covering in the form of truss arches instead of cylindrical, and to have laid the concrete of the bottom only after the roof was complete and the pillars ceased to settle under the weight of the arches. Infiltrations from the ground above should be guarded against and the thickness of the concrete lining increased. The second reservoir should only be completed after a full experience with the first has taught what is best to do.

Dr. Bicalho (formerly constructing engineer) said that the thickness of the walls and the breadth of the foundations would be insufficient in the case of a free reservoir, but as these were to be embanked he considered them sufficient. In the course of construction several satisfactory tests of the compressibility and permeability of the ground were made. The ground not being perfectly homogeneous different degrees of settlements were to be feared when loaded with the weight of the masonry. This difficulty could not be calculated

through its irregularity and its subjection to no law. This unequal settling was the cause of the crack, and this cause will be removed when the settling has attained its maximum. To this may be added the fact that the masonry at the northwest angle was new and abruptly connected with the part of the wall which had stood over a year, and that the pressure on the base is greatest at this same angle. To repair the damage he recommended provisional repairs and tests, after which the permanent repairs should be made, and the roof and other works should then be completed. If cracks continue to appear at the northeast angle it will be proof of insufficient base in that part, and the wall will require strengthening.

Dr. Rodrigues attributed the crack to infiltration from the interior to the exterior of the reservoir. The ground is not perfectly homogeneous and compressible, but he would not hesitate to place a reservoir on it. The accident was due to the laying of the concrete bottom before the covering was made in order that the inauguration might be sooner take place.

Col. Roberts attributed the crack to the slight but unequal settling of the main walls, pillars and concrete bottom, probably aggravated by the fact that the works were submitted to the pressure of water before being in conditions of perfect solidity. The hill is well adapted for the purpose of a reservoir and if the mason's work has been done as it should be done the reservoir can be rendered impermeable at a slight expense and can be made perfectly safe. In his detailed report—which we shall give in full in our next issue—Col. Roberts attributed the unequal settling of the wall principally to the fact that there was an abrupt difference of one and one-half metres in the foundation at the northwest angle and the wall was built up by a single offset instead of several offsets to divide the pressure. This caused an unequal settlement of the wall and a consequent break at the offset. He recommended that the wall should be sustained by buttresses, that the thickness of the concrete bottom should be increased, and that the work should be completely finished before water should again be admitted. For the upper reservoir he recommended that the whole bottom should be puddled with clay before laying on the concrete or building the pillars, and that it should be thoroughly tested before building the pillars and roof, the plans of which he does not approve.

Dr. Revi said that in general all works of this character should be founded on rock, but that the one under consideration might be rendered serviceable.

Dr. Rebouças said that he had nothing to add to his opinion stated in the report of the commission.

Dr. Monteiro de Barros (constructing engineer) said that small cracks had appeared in the bottom from time to time which were due to the unequal settling of the pillars and to the weight of the water. Infiltration has caused the extension of these cracks. The walls also had not settled equally. The cracks should be refilled and the walls at the northeast angle should be buttressed.

Dr. Belfort attributed the accident to the infiltration of water through the bottom into the underlying clayey soil. The bottom should be made perfectly impermeable.

Dr. Mortes Jardim (inspector of public works) agreed with the opinion of Dr. Sobral as to the causes, to which he gave as concurrent causes the unequal compressibility of the ground, the influence of differences in temperature, and the swelling of the saturated clay below the works. The works should be completed, the cracks refilled, and if necessary the thickness of the concrete may be increased. As a matter of precaution buttresses may be constructed.

After considering these various opinions the minister of agriculture appointed Dr. Borja Castro to execute the necessary repairs and to complete the work.

## THE WORLD'S COFFEE CONSUMPTION.

In our issue of the 12th inst., we gave a statement of the world's production of coffee at periods dating from 1855 to 1878, compiled by Professor Berg, associated with the management of the Java Bank of Batavia, and published by him in a Batavia magazine. In continuance of the valuable series of statistics compiled by that gentleman, we now summarize his data relative to consumption, in the several countries into which coffee is imported.

The consumption of coffee is steadily increasing in almost every country. The first auction sale of coffee was held in Holland, March 16, 1666; and for a long time Amsterdam, Bordeaux and London were the only markets; England clinging to the use of the berry,—and indeed using it more, —in spite of Charles II's edict against coffee houses on the ground that they encouraged sedition and disturbed the peace of the realm, and also of the judges declaring it to be a "common nuisance."

The Dutch, who had then almost an exclusive monopoly of the article, gradually introduced it into other countries, creating a demand for it that induced them to establish plantations in the West Indies and Surinam and that subsequently developed new sources of production in all directions and finally secured for it a world-wide consumption.

At first, coffee was a luxury of the wealthy classes, and governments generally therefore treated it as a means of revenue; and the history of the duties imposed upon it abounds with illustrations of the superior productiveness of low imposts. For example, in England the duty in 1807 was 18s per lb., the consumption 1,795,164 lbs. and the revenue £161,455. The year following the duty was reduced to 12s, and the consumption rose to 9,251,474 lbs. and the revenue to £245,556. Gradually, however, as the consumption spread among all classes, public dissatisfaction with high duties compelled governments to reduce this of tax, until at last the popular demand for "a cheap breakfast" has caused either the entire abolition of duty or the adoption of nominal taxes on the article. This abrogation of the policy of exacting high duties from coffee has, perhaps, more than anything else promoted the rapid increase of its consumption within the present century; but the cheapening of brown sugar, which is essential to an extensive use of coffee, has also contributed largely to that result, the price of Havana having fallen about 60 per cent. since 1815.

For practical purposes, we are interested in tracing the course of consumption only for a quarter of a century past; a comparison of that breath being sufficient to indicate the tendencies of distribution. That period is covered in Prof. Berg's estimates of consumption by the several importing countries for the average of the three years 1856-8 and 1876-8 respectively, which follow:

	1856-1858	1876-1878
	Total, Per head, consumption, head kilos.	Total, Per head, consumption, head kilos.
Norway .....	4,700,000 3.30	7,250,000 3.90
Sweden .....	5,950,000 1.65	9,900,000 2.27
Denmark .....	1,700,000 3.00	1,625,000 3.37
Russia .....	18,500,000 0.55	14,970,000 0.45
Great Britain .....	18,500,000 4.50	31,250,000 8.12
Netherlands .....	14,400,000 4.50	22,110,000 4.14
Germany .....	61,950,000 0.85	99,320,000 2.32
Austria-Hungary .....	19,450,000 0.55	37,320,000 1.06
Switzerland .....	7,900,000 2.75	10,400,000 2.75
France .....	27,130,000 0.75	50,000,000 1.98
Italy .....	12,865,000 0.47	13,500,000 0.47
Spain .....	13,500,000 2.75	15,000,000 0.16
Portugal .....	1,500,000 0.34	1,500,000 0.34
United States .....	96,700,000 3.50	147,000,000 3.75
Other countries .....	12,350,000 0.32	32,380,000 ...
Total .....	320,000,000 ...	489,000,000 ...

It will be seen from Prof. Berg's estimates that the world's consumption has risen from 320,000,000 kilos on an average of the three years 1856-8 to 489,000,000 on the average of 1876-8; an increase of 169,000,000 kilos or 53 per cent within twenty years. Estimating the average import value at 15 cents per lb., the annual value of the current consumption is over \$160,000,000, and the increase, within these twenty years, has been about \$60,000,000.

The differences of consumption between the various nations is very striking. The highest ratio is in Holland, where the consumption is 17.8 lbs per head, its use having nearly doubled within the twenty years. The next highest is Belgium, which consumes 9.4 lbs per head—a slight decrease, however; then, in order, comes Norway, where 8.6 lbs per head is consumed; and next comes the United States, where the rate is 8.4 lbs per head. France, which in 1856-8 used only 1.65 lbs per head, now takes 4.3 lbs. Germany although celebrated for its strong black coffee, consumes only 5.4 lbs per head; which leaves the Germans adulterate freely. In Great Britain, the consumption is remarkable for its smallness, averaging only 1 lb per head, against 1.1 in 1856-8. The maximum consumption of that country appears to have been reached in 1847 when, with several millions less population than now, the quantity retained for home use was 37,400,000 lbs, while for the average of 1876-8 it was only 33,000,000 lbs. Partly, this falling off is accounted for from the extensive use of chicory in adulterating coffee, of which over 10,000,000 lbs of foreign is used annually, besides a large quantity of home growth.

The consumption of coffee in Brazil is very great, and it is estimated that the country produces 1,000,000,000 lbs of coffee annually. The average market price of coffee is \$11 per 100 lbs. The consumption of coffee in Brazil is estimated at 300,000,000 lbs. The average price obtained at the pastures are: yearlings, \$6; two-year-olds and cows, \$9; three-year-olds, \$10; heifers, \$13; or an average price of \$9.50 on all classes. At an average of \$8.50 per head, owing to the large predominance of young cattle and cows, the total value of the drive will be \$2,550,000. The average market price of the cattle will be \$11 per head.

reduction of the duty to 3d per lb had little effect in augmenting the consumption. On the contrary the reduction of the duty on tea has enormously increased the use of that beverage. In 1856 the duty was 9d per lb, and the consumption 63,000,000 lbs; in 1866 the duty was reduced to 6d, and the consumption rose to 102,000,000 lbs, since which it has steadily gained until, in 1877, no less than 151,000,000 lbs of tea were consumed. Thus, while, between 1857 and 1877, the consumption of coffee in the United Kingdom, has declined 5½ per cent, that of tea has increased within the same years 139 per cent. The latter fact may be accepted as satisfactorily account for the former.

The relative status of the chief coffee consuming countries ranges as follows: First the United States, consuming 323,000,000 lbs; next Germany, which takes 218,000,000; next France, with 110,000,000; next Austria-Hungary, with 82,000,000; then Holland, with 68,800,000; and finally Belgium, with 48,600,000 lbs. These countries take 80 per cent of the whole product of the world. England ranks among the third rate consumers, and Russia, with her eighty millions of people, consumes only one-fifth of a pound per capita.

A comparison of the relative *per capita* consumption in different countries seems to suggest the inference that the use of coffee by any people depends very largely, first, upon exemption from adulteration and, next, upon the moderation of duties. Adulteration deteriorates the popular estimate of the beverage; and high duties beget adulteration or make the article too costly for universal use; and hence it will be found that, as a rule, the consumption of coffee has increased most within those nations which have least resorted to adulterations and have least burdened it with fiscal charges.—*N. Y. Commercial Bulletin*, April 15, 1880.

## MORE ABOUT SLAVERY.

To the Editor of the *Rio News*.

Sir:—Your correspondent "Constant Reader," in his eagerness to befriend Dr. Gunning, has overshot the mark, and proved too much.

How is it, Sir, that at a time when the planters and other slave-owners were gaining enormously by the labor of their negroes upon the railroad, and "the value of a slave was soon cleared," Dr. Gunning's negroes "did not clear themselves, but remained on hand?" Yet they ought to have earned their freedom if there was any meaning in "the system devised by the good doctor for the emancipation of his blacks," for they worked upon the railway! Well might Capt. Codman remark that "these fellows had the sense to see that with such a master as Dr. Gunning freedom would not be worth working for," for it seems to have been as a "result" of this discovery that "they worked so unprofitably that the railroad company dispensed with their services!"

How many of these thirty-five to forty wretched beings, who existed in slavery when Capt. Codman wrote his book in 1866, have been freed up to the present date by the "practical, negro-loving philanthropist?"

Let Dr. Gunning reserve his "modesty" (or whatsoever other feeling "prevented his going into this matter") and just enlighten us on this point; and while he is about it, let him tell us how many of the accounts have been balanced since 1866; and when?

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

DIÓGENES.

Rio, June 15th, 1880.

## CANADIAN STEAMSHIP SUBSIDY.

The Dominion House, in committee of supply upon the estimate, on Thursday considered the vote for ocean and river service. During the discussion the premiers made an announcement in regard to the item of \$50,000 for subsidizing a line of steamships from Canada to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He said that the Brazilian government were about to select a building in Rio Janeiro where Canadian products, such as were required in Brazil, could be exhibited, and that the Canadian government were going to procure and exhibit in Montreal specimens of such American and British products as were exported to Brazil, so that Canadian manufacturers could study the class of goods with which they would have to compete for this important trade.—*N. Y. Com't Bulletin*, May 4.

THE TEXAS (U. S.) cattle drive for the present year is estimated at 300,000 head. The average prices obtained at the pastures are: yearlings, \$6; two-year-olds and cows, \$9; three-year-olds, \$10; heifers, \$13; or an average price of \$9.50 on all classes. At an average of \$8.50 per head, owing to the large predominance of young cattle and cows, the total value of the drive will be \$2,550,000. The average market price of the cattle will be \$11 per head.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, JUNE 24TH, 1880.

In an official note to the director-general of the postoffice, of the 21st instant, the minister of agriculture calls attention to the fact that the American line of steamers have not complied with the legislative amendment to their contract requiring a call at the port of Maranhão, and directing that further payment of the subsidy shall cease. The minister also stated that the matter would be brought before the General Assembly, which was done on the following day. In this matter the minister has done no more than to carry out the strict requirements of the law, and in so doing merits all approbation. Had his predecessor acted thus decisively, it is highly probable that the whole question would have been settled long ere this. But of the law itself and the measures adopted last year to justify it, there are no words sufficiently strong for condemnation. To serve a petty whim of some trading and jealous deputies, an impossible condition is inserted into a carefully-drawn commercial contract, and the government allows it to become a law. In response to the representations of the steamship line against the practicability of making calls at Maranhão, a commission was sent to examine the port, and its report, based on a most superficial and imperfect examination, declared that there was sufficient depth of water, if not at Maranhão certainly at "other ports near that capital." And on such a truckling report and to satisfy the two-penny commerce of that port, the General Assembly deliberately breaks a contract by imposing an impossible condition. It follows therefore that a contract with the minister of agriculture and Emperor, subject to legislative revision, has no longer binding force in the empire.

One of the first acts of the new tariff revision commission has been a public invitation to the mercantile community to submit their opinions and wishes on the necessary changes in the existing schedule. It is probable that some interested parties who want more protection or those who want a special reduction in the interest of some private enterprise, will accept this invitation. It is barely possible, also, that some merchants will venture once more to suggest those changes which have been urged again and again upon the treasury department. But that there will be any spontaneous response we do not believe. In accepting the invitation of the minister of finance to organize revising committees, the merchants of this city were actuated by no other motive than the formulation of a schedule which would be just and equitable to all parties concerned. As is well known they did their work conscientiously and thoroughly; more than that, they did it intelligently. In the final revision the promise made by the inspector to place the schedule before the advisory committees for a final discussion and revision was conveniently forgotten and a tariff was put into execution which contained so few of their suggestions that it can not be considered in any sense as a part of their work. That schedule has not yet been in force six months, but it has been proved to be so glaringly imperfect that the government finds it necessary to undertake another revision. If the government is sincere in its wish to consult the merchants on this revision, it can do so most effectively by recurring again to the material placed before the last commission. There have been no radical changes in the economic state of the country since that time, and the schedule recommended then will serve every purpose now. Besides that it will not be possible to get the same results, the same elaboration of details, the

same agreement from conflicting interests, through individual and informal recommendations. It is not unlikely that the merchants will be charged with indifference if they do not reply to this invitation, and that their silence will be construed into a tacit acceptance of any revision which the commission may formulate. This, however, will be no worse than that of volunteering their opinions only to have them ultimately disregarded. Were there a positive certainty that their suggestions would be adopted, the merchants could do no more than was done one year ago, nor could they do better than to refer the present commission to the compilation of suggested changes then adopted by the various advisory committees. In view of the official traditions in favor of an increase of duties whenever the revenues prove insufficient it is not likely that there could be any harmony between the merchants and a commission composed wholly of treasury and customs officials. The merchant has seen more than one class of goods practically driven out of the market by excessive duties, and he is logical enough to know that the same causes always produce the same results.

The recent visit of the Emperor and minister of agriculture to the province of Paraná is already bearing fruit. The hope had been expressed in various quarters that out of a personal observation of the existing state of industry in that part of the empire and of the most pressing needs of the people, some practical measures would be taken to meet them and to aid in the development of the country. How well this has been done will be seen in what follows. Almost immediately on his return the minister instructed the director of the government telegraph service to proceed to the necessary surveys for a telegraph line from Curityba to Guarapuara. This latter place is about fifty leagues distant from Curityba, and is a small village of a few hundred houses situated in the midst of a rich grazing region. It is at present connected with the provincial capital by the vilest kind of a mule path some fifteen or twenty leagues long, which leads into the fine road running from Curityba to the *campos gerais* at Ponto Grosso. The village itself has two or three well-stocked stores, a number of *vendas*, a blacksmith's shop, a few carpenters and shoemakers, and semi-occasionally a baker. The inhabitants are for the most part *fazendeiros* who live mainly on their cattle farms and who come into town only on occasions of *festas* and elections and for obtaining supplies. The postman arrives there some three or four times a month with a single team mail bag. The surrounding country is very fertile and exports cattle and mules in considerable numbers. The imports are general merchandise from the capital and sometimes busteads from neighboring municipalities. And this is the municipality of Guarapuara, to which the government now proposes to construct a telegraph line. It is a distant pastoral community, whose wants are few and simple, and whose relations with the outside world are already served by three or four mails a month. Its one great commercial need, like that of the countless interior communities of Brazil, is the need of a good wagon road communication with some seaport or railway. Its first great civilizing need, like that of hundreds of towns all through the empire, is the need of schools. And yet, notwithstanding the general laws of national development through which these great needs are secured and enjoyed long in advance of the more costly needs of larger and more highly civilized communities, the government finds nothing more urgent than the luxury of a telegraph line. In the natural growth of a country we should expect to find good wagon roads in advance of railways, good schools and efficient postal communication in advance of telegraph wires. And yet, after visiting the wretched schools of Paraná and travelling over its few wretched roads, the minister concludes that the first great need of that province is a telegraph wire to Guarapuara. It does not appear that the cattle and mules of that district are suffering for the want of telegraph messages, nor that the people will have bread more frequently when the whirr of the telegraph instrument is heard in their quiet streets. Between Guarapuara and the outside world will remain the same old mule path, and the cost of importing and exporting goods will

be no less when the Curityba merchant can send the electric message "two mule loads of tobacco, calico and sundries just dispatched to Guarapuara." We remember a small town in the United States of about the same size as Guarapuara. It is situated in the centre of a thriving farming district many times more populous than its Paraná counterpart, and its trade was much more varied and thriving. It possessed several small industries and a well-filled mail bag was received every day. As the lines of a wealthy telegraph company passed within a mile of the town, the directors of the company were led to believe that a station could be maintained there, and a branch line and office were opened accordingly. The experience of a few months proved, however, that the receipts of the office were not sufficient to pay even the small salary of one operator and to maintain an exceedingly modest office, and the enterprise was therefore abandoned. And all that happened in a country where wagon roads ran everywhere, where railways were within easy reach, where traveling was easy and cheap, where postal facilities were cheap, and where newspapers and personal intercourse with the outside world all tended to widen the horizon of the little town and increase its daily wants far beyond the compass of its own production. In view of this experience what can be said of the necessity of telegraphic communication with Guarapuara? If the receipts of that office from private and commercial telegrams are sufficient to keep the battery cells supplied with acid, the results of the enterprise may be considered abundantly satisfactory; more than that can not be expected. It is to be regretted therefore that the minister of agriculture has not undertaken some enterprise which will contribute more directly to the development of Paraná and which will not be an unprofitable drain upon the imperial treasury.

## EXPORT TAXES.

One of the chief considerations which should occupy the attention of the commission lately appointed to revise the tariff as a subject for recommendation, and of the General Assembly as a subject for early revision, is that of the duties on exports. In view of the universal testimony of the best political economists and of the experience of other nations it is clear that the imposition of a tax on exports is unwise and prejudicial in the highest degree. As a rule it is a direct tax on the productive energies of a country, and therefore a check upon its development. In this sense it can not be otherwise than a grievous burden upon the people. It lessens the profits of the agriculturist and manufacturer even where it does not wholly destroy their industries, and in just that degree it hampers industrial growth and diminishes the productive capital of the country. In a certain school of political economists it is believed that this tax on exports comes out of the pocket of the consumer and is therefore no burden upon the native producer. These same men also claim that the tax on imports is paid by the foreign producer. From this it would seem that their fundamental theory in the imposition of export and import duties is that the foreigner always pays the tax—a theory whose contradictory hypotheses rule it out of all rational consideration.

The only basis upon which such a theory can be based is that of non-competition. If Brazil were the only coffee-producing country in the world, it could then be claimed with some reason that the foreign consumer pays the export tax; but, as Brazil produces less than half the total annual product of the world and as some other countries, notably the Central American states, are gaining very rapidly as coffee producers, it is evident that the consumer has the control of the market and therefore shifts the tax upon the producer. It should be borne in mind that it is no longer possible for the Brazilian planter or coffee broker to dictate prices to consuming markets. On the contrary, the coffee-consumers are now in a position to fix prices for themselves, subject to the general laws of supply and demand. It follows, therefore, that every competitor in the production of coffee strengthens the position of consuming markets and weakens that of those countries which formerly enjoyed a practical monopoly as producers. Besides that, every improvement in the cultivation

of coffee and in its preparation for market lowers the price in consuming markets.

The position now occupied by Brazil as a coffee-producing country is one of unusual interest. From the statistics given in our last issue of the coffee production of the world it will be seen that while the total product between the years 1855 and 1878, inclusive, increased 47½ per cent., that of Brazil increased only 38 per cent. This proves that Brazil is falling behind. How much of this is due to the baleful effects of the export tax we leave the Brazilian legislator to determine. The time has now come when some intelligent effort should be made to recover this lost ground. It is important for the Central American states to increase their product 800 per cent. while Brazil is increasing hers 38 per cent., it will be possible for this new competitor to eventually win the supremacy in consuming markets. With this contingency threatening her, Brazil should lose no time in relieving her coffee planters from every artificial burden, and to grant them all legitimate assistance in their efforts to reduce the cost of production. And this can only be done through the abolition of export duties, a reduction in the cost of transportation, and the early and total abolition of slavery.

With respect to the other products of the country, the necessity for the early abolition of all export duties is even more imperative. The production of cotton, once so important and promising, has been killed, while that of tobacco and sugar has been practically repressed or handicapped by these taxes, and shut out from that larger development which the conditions of soil and climate in Brazil have made possible. Aside from the pecuniary advantages involved in the encouragement of these industries there are others which have a vital interest to the country. Profitable as may be the production of coffee there is great danger in its exclusive cultivation. With such a variety of soil, Brazil should be limited to no one nor half dozen productions. Instead of importing cured meats, rice, corn, potatoes, beans, and many other necessities, from foreign countries, all these products should be produced at home. More than that, these productions should be a source of profit to small farmers who are now almost wholly unknown. Were the government to abolish all export duties and reduce the present high freight rates on the lines under its control, the cost of placing tobacco, sugar and cotton in consuming markets would be greatly reduced and an eventual increase in the production of these products would certainly follow. Abolish then the unwise policy of granting special aids to the few petted industries and not only would the expenditures of the government be reduced but there would ultimately follow a safe and highly desirable development in the number of small producers who are now unjustly repressed by official discrimination. This would lead to the final development of the many small industries which are now neglected.

It does not follow that all these desirable results would be attained by the simple abolition of export taxes. There are other economic reforms which the necessities of the country imperatively demand and which must be secured before the way will be clear to the highest development of Brazilian agriculture. It is not possible, however, to change everything at one legislative act; the burdens can be cut off only by one, and among the first to fall should be this suicidal tax on exports.

## LEGISLATIVE NOTES

The sessions of the Senate and Chamber Deputies have been considerably interrupted since our last report, and the work done has been largely of a routine and private character. In the Senate very little of consequence has happened. In the Chamber the estimates for the department of empire entered on second discussion on the 16th and have been up nearly every session since. The electoral reform bill entered on its third reading on the 19th, and on the 21st a large number of amendments to it were presented.

In response to an interpellation of Senator Corrêa in regard to the grants of premiums to the Jockey Club of this city by the government, the ministry announced on the 19th that the premiums heretofore conceded amounted to 9,663\$, that were taken from the receipts of the Dom Pedro II railway, but that the present government had revoked the concession and the premiums would no longer be paid. In congratulating the ministry on this step Senator Corrêa took occasion to thank the minister of agriculture for the recent steps taken for the extension of a telegraph line from Curityba to Guarapuara, province of Paraná.

—The late petty disturbance in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, over the rejection of a drainage contract by the provincial assembly, was brought before the Senate on the 19th by Senator Corrêa. He asked for copies of the contract which proved so objectionable as to excite the disturbances. The same subject was brought before the Chamber by Deputy Fernando Osório and excited considerable discussion during the 18th and 19th.

—In reply to an interpellation on the 21st inst. Minister Buarque de Macedo stated that when the present ministry assumed office he found that the appropriations for colonization had been already exceeded by 1,300,000\$. The government at once reduced expenditures in that department and abolished official colonization. He would ask for a specific credit of 1,300,000\$ in a few days to enable the government to emancipate all the colonies during the year, to lay out lands and make roads.

—It transpired in a discussion on an interpellation by Senator Corrêa on the 22d inst., that the government had thrown out all tenders for the improvement of the port of Santos, and had turned over that important work to the province of São Paulo. The minister of agriculture had ordered the tenders and deposits to be returned to the parties interested.

## LOCAL NOTES

—It is proposed to erect a monument to the late Duque de Caxias.

—The customs inspector of this port has been authorized to increase the number of general dispatchers to 110.

—The Italian packet *L'Italia* which arrived from Genoa on the 15th inst., brought out 552 steerage passengers, 224 of whom went on to the River Plate.

—Clemente do Amaral was brought to trial on the 16th inst. for striking Antonio Francisco de Macedo on the 6th of May, 1878—over two years ago. He was discharged.

—The *Vital de Oliveira* has been instructed to return home from Hong Kong, China, immediately. The return voyage will be by way of S. Francisco, California, and Cape Horn.

—The civil engineers of this city propose to make a demonstration on the arrival of the composer, Carlos Gomes. One is led to think that the illustrious musician is an engineer also.

—The government has directed the president of Bahia to proceed against the late *fel* of the internal revenue office of that province for the crime of counterfeiting revenue stamps. The amount involved is 30,000\$.

—An official report of the 10th inst., concerning the late epidemic of yellow fever at Vassouras, in this province, says that it is now quite extinct. Since the breaking out of the fever in April there have been 70 cases and 28 deaths.

—The minister of marine has granted the request of the students to the effect that a transport should be placed at their disposal to go out to meet Carlos Gomes. It does not transpire who pays for the coal.

—It is said that the Emperor proposes to make a trip into Minas after the inauguration of the Barbacena railway station. It is not known whether the imperial *comitiva* on the Paraná trip will be quite ready by that time.

—One of the unexpected results of the tardily discovered fame of Camões is seen in the name o a mutual benefit as ocultation just organized. It was first proposed to call it the *Associação Portuguesa de Socorros Mutuos Tricentenario Luiz de Camões*, but it has since been decided that the title *Associação Portuguesa de Beneficencia Memória a Luiz de Camões* is slightly more euphonious. It seems that the vindictive spirit which persecuted the poet in life, still seeks to persecute those who speak his language three hundred years after.

—A cheerful *fellow-traveller* undertook, the other day, to write a criticism of *Dora*, one of Sardou's dramas recently put upon the stage in this city. Naturally the ordinary play-goer doesn't see much in the common run of dramas to invite a column and more of eruditè criticism and reflection, but that's just the difference between our critic and the common run of mortals. He started out first with the Franco-Prussian war and a flattering allusion to Cesar and his *Commentaries*. He then crossed the Rhine and gave us an insight into the cabinet secrets of Prince Bismarck, whom he led about by the nose in the most heroic fashion. He then made a brilliant jump back into the shadowy beginnings of our race, to the Aryans of the Persian table lands, from which he drew instructive lessons about the fall of Napoleon III and the state of modern society. It then occurred to him to say something about *Dora*, after which he plunged into a discussion of the inner social life of the French people, and of one of its peculiar features, the *espionnage*, out of which springs the plot of this drama. He then wandered off into some reflections on another drama whose plot he demonstrated to be as applicable in Pekin and Melbourne, or among the Samoyeds and Mandarins as in Paris, and brought up in a discussion of Brazilian literary journalism. Thus refreshed he again returned to *Dora*, whose career he followed until he caught sight of a favorite French actress, when away he rushed again to give us an eruditè discussion of the stage. Things got just a little mixed at this point, but the reader could be sure that it was all right from the stage landmarks—Ophelia, Desdemona, Juliet and Lady Macbeth. Recovering himself again, our critic then, at the end of one column, took up the leading actress' representation of *Dora*, to whom he gave credit for speaking good Portuguese. At this point there was a brief reference to another French actress, and then one of the actors received a compliment for his correct diction, and a reprimand for his manners, standing with his feet at an angle of 60° and "ready to begin a solemn march to the sound of funeral harmonies."

"There's something in theatrical criticism, after all!"

## THE RIO NEWS.

The first opera of the season took place on the 18th inst.

One of the features of the late *Exposto Cam-*  
on was a lock of hair from the head of the  
celebrated Ignaz de Castro.

The minister of agriculture has instructed the  
director-general of the Rio fire department to fur-  
nish the newly-organized São Paulo fire department  
all the pumps and other material which he can  
spare, and at reasonable charge.

The thanks of the Emperor and Empress for  
the use of the steamer *Rio Grande* during their late  
trip to Pará, were conveyed to the president of the  
National Steam Navigation Co., on the 14th inst.,  
through the minister of agriculture.

The minister of agriculture has revived the  
project for the preparation of a vocabulary of en-  
gineering technical words. He does not propose to  
reorganize the commission previously entrusted with  
the work, but has placed it in the hands of the faculty  
of the Polytechnic School.

The customs officials have suddenly grown  
vigilant. One of them found twelve hams in two  
lockers in the captain's room of the German bark  
*Brasiliensis* on the 18th inst. As in the case of the  
contraband goods found on the *Astraeus*, they were  
just about to be sent on shore.

A customs guard reports the discovery of con-  
traband goods on board the British ship *Astraeus*,  
on the 19th inst. The goods consisted of a package  
of shirts, a package of handkerchiefs, and another  
of umbrellas found in the captain's room, and ten  
bales of oakum found below deck aft, covered with  
a sail.

A meeting took place on the 17th inst. at the  
hall of the "Sociedade de Socorros Mútuos Unida  
Familiar Perfeita Amizade," for the purpose of  
organizing a society to commemorate annually the  
great poet Luiz de Camões. The organization was  
effected and the new society will be known as the  
"Sociedade de Socorros Mútuos Luiz de Camões."

Decree #731, of the 14th inst., grants a five  
years' privilege to Fernandes & Irmãos for the  
manufacture of two classes of carts, the *Otomônios*  
or water cart, and the *Hercules* cart for carrying  
heavy weights, both of which they claim as  
inventions. The next step will be to obtain a priv-  
ilege from the city council for the exclusive use of  
these carts in this city.

Our readers will be glad to know that the  
supreme power of law has unanimously acquited  
Capt. João Gomes de Faria, ex-commander of the  
monitor *Splinter*. Hereafter a naval officer ex-  
perienced in the management of sailing vessels will  
be considered fully competent to command iron-  
clads, and the occurrence of a *fiasco*, like that of the  
trial trip of the *Splinter*, will reflect no discredit  
either upon the commander or the service.

In response to the representations of the Soci-  
edad Auxiliadora de Agricultura, of Pernambuco,  
against certain unjust decisions of the customs  
inspector of that port, the minister of finance in-  
structed the customs authorities, under date of May  
26th, that kettles and caldrons shall not be subject  
to the duty of 180 reis per kilo only when the  
principal material in the manufacture is laminated  
copper. When made of iron they are to be as-  
sessed only 50 reis per kilo. This decision is given in  
the interests of the sugar mills whose imported iron  
caldrons were assessed as laminated copper. It is  
to be regretted that this decision did not also cover  
the still more unjust practice of the same inspector  
in assessing the clay retorts imported by the Per-  
nambuco gas company as laminated copper. This  
latter practice is even more unwarranted and op-  
pressive than the former.

It should be noted that the *Jornal* has again  
returned to its old practice of inserting immoral  
advertisements and permitting its office to be used  
by the persons advertising. It is to be hoped  
that the respectable public will keep a sharp  
eye on this business, as it is evident that our  
contemporary of the "moral horizon" does not  
always make a judicious choice between the interests  
of the public and itself. And just here, we would  
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some months ago, and its own advertising columns  
and business office? To the ordinary mind it's  
the same old traffic in which the few speculated  
on the gross appetites and misfortunes of others, and  
by which every sense of decency and public virtue  
is shocked. If the *Jornal* wishes to retain the  
respect and support of honest men it must drop this  
shameful speculation at once and forever.

The trial of Joaquim Antonio Moreira, for  
beating a slave woman, Adriana, with a broom-stick,  
February 8, 1873, so that she died from its effects!  
Four days after, took place on the 14th inst. The  
accused explained that on the day in question he  
was informed by his wife that the slave woman  
Adriana had been disobedient, for which he took a  
broom-stick and punished her. He was afterwards  
told that Adriana fell a difficulty in breathing,  
whereupon he sent her to a hospital in Rio de  
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private room. Learning that she was not improving  
he called at the hospital and found her in the gen-  
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all about it, who ordered him to leave the empire.  
He remained abroad for a time in respect to the  
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delivered himself up for trial. The accused was  
then discharged by an unanimous vote of the jury  
on the ground that a moderate castigation was  
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moderate castigation resulted in the death of the  
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under the editorial direction of Dr. Alberto de  
Carvalho.

The resignation of Dr. Francisco Pereira Passos  
as director of the Dom Pedro II railway was  
accepted by the government on the 22nd inst. We  
are informed that his successor will be Dr. Her-  
cúlio F. Penna.

The *caporais* are again making themselves  
visible in various parts of the city, to the great annoy-  
ance and terror of the orderly portions of the community.  
The chief of police should set to the suppression  
of these ruffians and cut-throats.

Another of the new street letter boxes has  
suffered injury, and as before it is not a guard  
station. It is feared that suspicion will fall upon  
the police and military if this thing happens many  
times more. The last box injured is in the Largo  
S. Domingos.

To appropriately commemorate the expected  
arrival of the composer, Carlos Gomes, some stu-  
dents in the preparatory schools have organized a  
society under the title "Sociedade de Beneficência  
Escolar Carlos Gomes." The society proposes to  
assist poor students to secure an education.

In consequence of the late decision of the  
supreme military council Capt. João Gomes de  
Faria was reinstated in command of the monitor  
*Splinter* on the 19th instant. There can be no pos-  
sible objection to this procedure as long as the  
ironclad is not sent to sea.

An extraordinary meeting of the ministry  
took place at the residence of the prime minister  
on the evening of the 22nd, says the *Gazeta*, to  
consider the serious situation of affairs in the  
Argentine Republic. The immediate cause of the  
meeting was an important dispatch from the Brazilian  
minister at the River Plate.

A well known merchant of this city, says the  
*Gazeta*, presented a 500\$ note (No. 48,449, 1<sup>st</sup>  
serie, 4<sup>th</sup> estampa) at the Caixa de Amortização on  
the 21st for smaller notes, when the note was  
detained on the ground that it had been once re-  
deemed. The stamp of cancellation was not visible  
on the note, and as the merchant received it from  
the Banco do Brasil on the 19th he believed it to be  
all right. The case is now under investigation.  
It may finally occur that there are others beside  
the late finance minister who have been issuing redeemed  
currency.

We notice in the *Artista*, of Rio Grande do  
Sul, dated the 7th inst., that a telegram had been  
received in that city from Senator Silveira Martins  
saying that he should take passage for that province  
on the 11th inst. We refer to this for the benefit  
of certain contemporaries in this city who sought  
to make political capital out of that event. Honest  
opposition to a man or party is unquestionable, but  
the petty spite which leads men to warp the most  
common and innocent incidents of life into something  
wholly foreign to it, is simply detestable.

The government has resolved to put up electric  
regulators in various parts of the city. They will be  
connected with the Imperial Observatory of Castle Hill,  
and will serve to give the correct time. The utility of  
electric time-keepers throughout the city will not be doubted, especially as this lack of  
correct time in the suburbs is preventing an equilibrium  
between the receipts and expenses of the govern-  
ment, and is an obstacle in the way of keeping the  
streets clean and in good repair. Besides that there  
will be a wonderful improvement in the sanitary  
state of the city as soon as it can be generally known  
just what moment each day the sun is passing Dr.  
Luis' meridian.

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are informed that his successor will be Dr. Hercúlio F. Penna.

Several large lots of "Navigation" shares are reported to  
have been sold yesterday at par.

## MARKET REPORT

Rio de Janeiro, June 23rd, 1880.

Dry Goods.—Auctions have been somewhat frequent lately,  
to the great detriment of regular business, consequently  
operations are much restricted, and prices are not only  
irregular but are weaker than is warranted by the recent  
improvement in exchange.

Coffee.—Since our last report on the 13th instant only a  
limited business has been done, owing chiefly to the increase  
of cost by the rise in exchange.

The total sales since that date amount to 35,420 bags, viz:

11,760 bags for United States
19,020 " Europe
1,900 " Cape of Good Hope
2,620 " Elsewhere
35,420 bags.

Receipts show no signs of increase, the daily average since  
the 1st instant being 393 bags,

742 " in same period of 1879
5454 " " 1878
426 " " 1877

Stock is estimated at 14,000 bags.

Currency shows a decline of 50 reis per 10 kilos. We  
quote per kilo:

Washed..... \$180-\$185
Superior..... 6500-\$6750
Good first..... 5700-\$5850
Regular first..... 5340-\$5600
Ordinary first..... 5110-\$5300
Good second..... 4830-\$4970
Ordinary second..... 3700-\$3950

Our cable advices from Santos under yesterday's date report  
great firmness on the part of dealers. Superiores were quoted  
nominally \$500 per 10 kilos. Entries for last week had averaged  
1,400 bags per day and stock was estimated at 10,700 kilos.

Pork.—During the ten days under review the supply from  
Angra has again been on a liberal scale, increasing the stock  
in hands to 50,000 barrels, and the market remains, in  
consequence, depressed.

The arrivals have been 30,300 barrels, viz :

18,500 barrels from America
1,800 bags " Chile
20,300 barrels.

The sales amount to 4,720 barrels American.  
Stock in first hands consists of 50,500 barrels, viz:

9,000 barrels Gallego
1,000 " Haial
11,000 " Dourado
580 " O Duce
2,000 " McCance
3,000 " River Plate
1,800 " Chile

50,500 barrels.

We quote:

Gallego 21 800-\$2000
Haial 22 000-\$22 500
Dourado 21 500-\$22 000
Rio Grande 20 000-\$21 500
River Plate 16 000-\$18 000

Pitch Pine.—Buyers continue to offer 38,000 per dozen "to  
order" for non-taxed transactions taken place.

Wooden Poles.—The arrivals consist of 125,000 feet per Netto  
bag, which had been sold before arrival.

The market continues firm at 100 reis per 100 feet.

Kerosene.—The arrivals consist of 5,500 cases per Netto  
bag from New York, not yet landed.

Market quiet at 7800-\$7800 per case for Devoo's Brilliant.

Lard.—Continues steady at

320-330 reis per lb. for George

310-320 " Jenkins

310-320 " Wilcox

Value of £1 sterling 1087

## THE RIO NEWS

## THE RIO THESPians.

This English amateur dramatic association gave, under the direction of Mr. R. K. Benjamin, two of their entertaining performances, at the Theatro S. Luiz, on Monday and Tuesday evenings, in aid of the British Educational Fund and the *Asyl dos Meninos Desvalidos*. The list of stews embraced the names of many prominent Brazilians, Englishmen and Americans, and the first performance was honored by the presence of the Emperor and Empress.

The performance commenced with Morton's comedy, "On the Sly," in which Mr. Benjamin played the prissy part of *Dibbits* acceptably; Mr. Mathias made the most of *Major Growler*, and Mr. Markland rendered the character of *Mrs. Dibbits* as gracefully as could have been expected under the circumstances, but the movement was slow throughout and it was evident the young gentlemen did not enter into it with vim.

This was followed by some good music by the orchestra, when the curtain rose on "William Tell," by Henry J. Byron. This amusing musical burlesque, with new songs and music composed and arranged by Mr. Benjamin, elicited rounds of applause and kept the house in a good humor through all the five acts. Mr. S. Oliver made his first appearance as a member of the company, and rendered the part of *Albert Tell* with an easy, airy manner, not too much exaggerated, that elicited the commendation of the audience. Messrs. Mathias, Swanick, Fry, and Markland, acted most spiritedly in the characters of *Gester*, *Sarnem*, *Tell*, and *Emma*, while Mr. Benjamin sustained the trying part of *Rosetta* with cleverness. A topical song by *Rosetta* might have been modified, as a matter of taste, out of consideration to the presence of the guests of the evening. Mr. Fitzhugh's absence was noted by the audience, but his clever administration was observed in the orderly movement and arrangement of everything in the manager's department.

The audience was composed, as usual, of the families of the English and American community, and left the theatre at the conclusion of the performances, pleased with an entertainment which is now an established institution among us.

[We go to press too early to notice the performance of Tuesday evening.—Ed.]

## PROVINCIAL NOTES.

—Counterfeit 200\$ notes are reported from various parts of Rio Grande do Sul.

—A popular demonstration at Porto Alegre on the evening of the 14th, brought out some 10,000 people.

—The Rio Grande papers are still complaining of the bad administration of the postoffice in that province.

—The docks at Rio Grande have cost thus far 1,100,000\$, including interest on bonds, administration, etc.

—The *Liberdade*, of Pernambuco, has suspended publication. It was the official organ of the liberal party in that province.

—The customs receipts at the port of Santos in May were 401,391\$55, including 17,148\$18 deposited, and 368 for the emancipation fund.

—The epidemic at Canguçu, Rio Grande do Sul, has subsided and the medical commission sent to the assistance of the town has returned to Porto Alegre.

—The receipts of the São Paulo postoffice in May were 21,734\$309, expenditures 15,497\$855. Balance in favor of the provincial postal department, 6,236\$. 445.

—The managers of the Santos railway line gave an entertainment to the employees of that road at the São Paulo Hippodrome on the evening of the 19th inst.

—The province of Rio Grande do Sul imposes a tax of 500\$ on every slave brought into the province for sale, and 250\$ on every slave sold for export or exported for sale.

—The public debt of the province of Rio Grande do Sul on the 31st of December last was 2,593,287\$707. Of this sum 2,077,148\$49 draws 6 per cent, and 430,317\$ draws 7 per cent, interest.

—The Baracana station contractor, César Paratico, after receiving the amount of his contract, suddenly disappeared. His many creditors in Baracana suffered somewhat concerned about his safety.

—The Commercial Association of Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul, has petitioned the government against the annulment of the present free coasting trade laws.

—The Commercial Association of Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, has addressed a protest to the General Assembly against the repeal of the existing laws which permit foreign vessels to engage in the coasting trade.

—Late mail advices from the province of Paraná report that the Indians are making incursions into the settlements on the Rio Negro. Unlike ordinary savages these Indians have a taste for money, and have therefore taken to highway robbery.

—Porto Alegre is undergoing an infliction of new street numbers at a cost to the house owners of \$1,700 to each number.

—Some bright young fellows near Campinas, while celebrating the day of their patron saint S. Antonio with fireworks, left a bottle of powder near a bonfire. They are now extracting pieces of glass from their bruised bodies.

—The slave Bernardino, tried for the murder of the German Schroeder, at Campinas, some months since, was condemned to 12 years' imprisonment with hard labor. This sentence was afterwards commuted to 3 years' imprisonment in irons fastened to the neck.

—The provincial budget of Rio Grande do Sul estimates the receipts of that province during the year 1880-81 at \$2,79,400\$ and the expenditures at 2,28,228\$18. This leaves a deficit of 48,828\$18 which the provincial president is authorized to meet by a loan.

—The city council of Santos, on the 17th inst., entered into a contract with Thomas Antonio de Azevedo for the construction of a temporary market. The amount appropriated is 10,400\$, and the work must be completed in four months from the signing of the contract.

—The *Actualidade de Ouro Preto*, Minas Geraes, of the 16th inst., mentions the arrest in various parts of that province of thirty men accused of murder or attempt to murder. Thirteen of them were Italians who killed together two men at S. José do Pucú on the 5th and 6th ult.

—Francisco Antonio de Padua killed his brother Antonio Francisco, at Bannanal, S. Paulo, on the evening of the 4th inst. The deed was committed with a knife on the public road and in presence of the assassin's wife. This is the third fratricide in that locality with a space of two years.

—A civil marriage recently took place in Maranhão between a Danish subject and a Brazilian lady. The couple applied to the ecclesiastical authorities for the usual dispensation. Difficulties arising and as the church men were over-scrupulous about the matter, the couple went before the British consul and were married.

—The Porto Alegre "Florida water" manufacturers, Leão & Alves, have asked the provincial assembly of Rio Grande do Sul to grant them exemption from the 25 per cent. impost on rum used in the manufacture of perfumery. The high tariff on the imported Florida water does not seem to be sufficient protection.

—A miraculous sweating monument has been discovered in the municipal cemetery of Rio Claro. Of course, miraculous cures have been effected by the water from it and the easily-deceived miracle worshippers are busily employed in collecting the precious liquid. It is said to be specially efficacious in cases of rheumatism. The miracle will probably disappear with a change of temperature.

—A horrible assassination took place at Santa Isabel do Rio Preto on the night of the 11th inst. As Francisco Antonio Martins was returning to his fazenda, he was attacked by a party of his own slaves just as he dismounted to open a gate. The blacks had fastened the gate purposely and were awaiting him in ambush. They attacked him with hoes and scythes, killing him instantly and horribly mutilating his body.

## RAILROAD NOTES.

—The receipts of the "Nietheroy a Campos" railway in May were 19,141\$630.

—The gross earnings of 36 American railways, with a total extension of 23,419 miles, during the first four months of the present year, were \$54,568,85—an increase of 25 per cent. over the same period of last year.

—The inauguration of the railway station at Baracena, Minas, on the Dom Pedro II line, will take place on the 29th inst. The line will then have been opened about one month, waiting for the attendance of the Emperor to formally inaugurate it.

—A meeting of the shareholders of the Sorocabana railway company was held in this city on the morning of the 21st inst. After a brief discussion it was resolved to elect a commission to examine the company's books and to prepare a report on them.

—Dr. Francisco Picando, one of the editors of the *Revista da Engenharia*, has been appointed resident engineer of the Baturité railway. The *Revista* will remain under the editorial charge of Dr. José Americo dos Santos, under whose intelligent management it has made such gratifying progress thus far.

—The published returns of the "Babia or S. Francisco" railway for April show that the total receipts of the road were \$1,825,820 and the expenditures \$3,706,520, leaving a deficit of 6,880\$390. The number of first-class passengers carried was 998\$, second-class 4,465\$. The freight traffic included 1,330 tons of sugar and 131 tons of tobacco.

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